

Grade 6 SS/ELA
Unit 2 River Valley Civilizations

Lesson 4: Egypt: The Gift of the Nile

Overview:

Students will preview a PowerPoint Presentation entitled, “Egypt: the Gift of the Nile.” While they are viewing the lesson, they will take notes to later be used to fill in a graphic organizer. Next, the graphic organizer can be used to as prewriting for an informational essay.

***Suggested time allowance:** 2 class periods*

Standards:

- SS.3.2: Geography requires the development and application of the skills of asking and answering geographic questions; analyzing theories of geography; and acquiring, organizing, and analyzing geographic information.
- WHST.6.2: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes.
- WHST.6.6: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently.
- WHST.6.9: Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- WHST.6.10: Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Enduring Understanding:

- Students will understand how geography impacts the development of a civilization.

Essential Unit Question:

- Why was Egypt considered the “Gift of the Nile?”

Resources/Materials for this lesson:

- Classroom physical/political map of Egypt
- “The Gift of the Nile” PowerPoint Presentation (included)
- Notes “The Gift of the Nile” (included) to be used if technology to project the PowerPoint is not available
- Graphic organizer (included)
- Laptops or desktops, if available
- Essay Directions (included)
- Rubric (included)
- “Ancient Egypt: The Gift of the Nile (3000-30 B.C)” 3:33. *Discovery Education Streaming*. April 4, 2011. Subscription required.

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<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=7A54F2BB-9134-4B4C-A4B1-650ACCF988B0> The Nile River flows northward through Egypt, nourishing and protecting the civilization along its banks. The chapter explores Upper and Lower Egypt, the Delta, and the Nile's relationship with the Sahara. The chapter also explains how farmers relied on the rich soil the Nile's flooding provided.

- Additional web resources:
 - “The Gift of the Nile.” *Tripod*. April 4, 2011. <http://ancient.egypt.tripod.com/nile.html> This is a great website with a brief description about Egypt and why it was considered the Gift of the Nile.
 - “Ancient Egypt for Kids: Gifts of the Nile.” April 4, 2011. *MrDonn.org* <http://egypt.mrdonn.org/geography.html> This is a terrific site that has many helpful links and a historical overview of Egyptian civilization. Has advertisements.

Activities/Procedures:

Day 1

1. Review the meaning of Mesopotamia and why civilizations developed between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Point out the location of Egypt on the classroom map, and tell students that we are going to look at the influence of another river.
2. Distribute the graphic organizer (included) and go over the column headings. Have students view the PowerPoint presentation (included) on “The Gift of the Nile.”
3. Discuss the importance of the Geography of Egypt. Explain the use of irrigation and transportation. Discuss the “Gifts of the Nile” and what life was like on the river. If the technology to project the PowerPoint presentation is not available distribute the notes on the “Gift of the Nile” and conduct a shared reading.
4. After the presentation or reading, students fill in the columns “What did the Nile supply? How was this used by the Egyptians? How did this help Egypt to grow as a civilization?”
5. For homework have students add to the graphic organizer from their notes on civilization in Lesson 3.

Day 2

1. Hand out “Essay Directions.” (included). Go over the directions and have the students write the essay in class during one class period using laptops/desktops, if available.

Evaluation/Assessment:

- Essay (included)
- Rubric (included)

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Vocabulary (See Unit Glossary for definitions)

- barge
- canal
- carp
- habitable
- harpoons
- irrigation
- Khemet
- papyrus
- perch
- silt
- tilapia